

Housing Public Hearing

March 3rd 2014

Testimony is SUPPORT of Bill No.365

First and foremost I would like to thank the committee chairs for the opportunity to speak upon my hearing. My name is Stephanie Silva and I am a Social Work student at Southern Connecticut State University. I am currently interning at Family Services of CT working with domestic violence victims.

I am speaking on behalf of my support for bill No.365, An Act Concerning Waiting List for Public Housing. This bill provides a fair method for families awaiting housing. Working with domestic violence victims I witness many of these individuals awaiting housing who experience a long drawn-out process of being selected. The housing method currently chooses people based on circumstance, which isn't always effective because of the actual amount of victims who report their abuse. According to the National Violence against Women Survey, only 27 percent of women and 13.5 percent of men who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner reported their assault to law enforcement. That being said, some of these victims are in desperate need of housing and are pushed aside because they have no documentation of the abuse. Based on this bill the lottery process and first come first serve basis will be fairly balanced for those who are awaiting housing. In conclusion the process of selecting individuals based on circumstances isn't rational.

I am a strong supporter of this bill and I wish for it to be voted for and also to eventually become a law.